

Castro and Donovan Near Pact on Captives

HAVANA, Oct. 9 (AP).—
Prime Minister Fidel Castro
and negotiator James B. Donovan
appeared set to complete
an agreement today for the
release of 1,113 Cuban prison-
ers seized in the April, 1961,
invasion.

Responsible sources predicted
the prisoners would be flown to
Miami in a few days. The set-
tlement terms have not been
disclosed.

In New York, Mr. Donovan
was quoted as saying by tele-
phone: "I'm looking forward to
an early resolution of the prob-
lem and I hope to have some-
thing to say later today or to-
morrow. I am highly opti-
mistic."

Mr. Donovan was quoted by
Robert A. Morse, assistant gen-
eral counsel for the Cuban
Families Committee for the
liberation of the prisoners. Mr.
Donovan represents the com-
mittee in negotiations with the
Castro government.

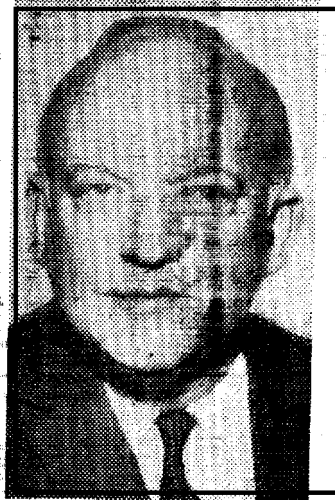
The Castro government orig-
inally asked \$62 million in cash
for all the prisoners taken in
the Bay of Pigs invasion.
About 60 already have been
freed. Mr. Donovan, a New
York attorney negotiating for
the families of the prisoners,
has said he would offer medi-
cine and food instead of a cash
ransom.

The United States Govern-
ment might be called on to
chip in with some surplus food
products, but officials in Wash-
ington said there have been no
final arrangements on this.
Cuban exiles in Miami say the
bulk of the food and drug sup-
plies would be contributed by
the United States public, by
relief agencies and by families
of the prisoners.

Responsible sources said Mr.
Donovan has arranged with
Pan American World Airways
for transportation to take all
the prisoners from Havana to
Miami before the week end.

(In Washington, the State
Department said no agreement
had been reached "as of this
morning." Lincoln White, State
Department press officer, told
newsmen it was his under-
standing that "discussions are
continuing.")

Relatives and friends of the
prisoners in Havana, certain



JAMES B. DONOVAN

—AP Wirephoto

that an agreement already has
been reached, have been show-
ering Mr. Donovan with gifts
and praise. The lawyer, who
negotiated the swap of U-2
Pilot Francis Gary Powers for
Soviet spy Rudolf Abel last
year, has refused to accept a
fee in the Cuban case, inform-
ants said.

In Washington and Miami,
officials were setting up fa-
cilities to take care of the
prisoners, if and when they
are released. Reinforcements
of personnel were being rushed
to Miami to handle the expected
big influx.

Under present procedures, the
Dade County (Miami) Public
Health Department provides the
refugees with medical services,
and the Florida Public Aid
Agency with financial help. The
Federal Government reimburses
both agencies.

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